

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



Newsletter of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services

January/February 2005

State issues permit to PSNH for new wood-fired boiler

by Gary Milbury, ARD Construction Permit Manager

On October 25, 2004, the Air Resources Division issued a joint federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Permit and State of New Hampshire Temporary Permit (commonly known as a construction permit) to Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH), Schiller Station, located in Portsmouth. The joint PSD/Temporary Permit allows PSNH to install a wood-fired boiler capable of producing 50 megawatts (MW) of energy, enough electricity to power about 40,000 homes.

The new boiler will burn clean wood chips – a renewable resource – primarily from in-state sources, but will have backup capability of burning coal in the event that wood supplies are not readily available or if the wood fuel becomes uneconomical. Significant emission reductions will be achieved by this new high efficiency boiler, which replaces one of three existing fossil fuel-fired boilers at Schiller Station. The result is good for the forest industry and good for air quality.

The federal PSD regulations require the application of best available control technology, or BACT, to minimize the release of air pollution. This project is expected to result in a reduction of at least 350 tons per year of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, 43 tons per year of fine particulate matter emissions, and 1,600 tons per year of

Schiller, continued on page 8



PSNH's Schiller Station on the Piscataqua River in Portsmouth. Photo courtesy of PSNH.

Commissioner's Column

DES priority receives boost from the congressional delegation

Federal funds earmarked for septage treatment system

A high priority of my tenure as Commissioner has been the state's growing need for increased septage disposal capacity. Although septage disposal is probably not on the minds of most people, this fundamental service has the potential to become a public crisis if the system is not modernized in a timely fashion. Thankfully for New Hampshire our congressional delegation has recognized the value of a proactive approach to this problem. Sen. Judd

Gregg and Rep. Charlie Bass jointly announced that they have recently secured \$600,000 in federal funds to be used at the state operated Winnepesaukee River Basin Program (WRBP). The funds were included in the omnibus-spending bill passed by both houses of Congress before Thanksgiving and expected to be signed into law by the President this January.

Septage, the material removed from
Funding, continued on page 2

Funding

continued from page 1

home septic tanks, presents a 90 million gallon a year problem for the state of New Hampshire. Providing the means for its proper handling, treatment and disposal has been an increasing challenge, as the state's septage disposal capacity has not kept pace with population growth. Also, 25 percent of New Hampshire's septage is currently disposed of out-of-state, with no assurance of this option remaining available in the future.

The federal funding will be used to conduct an engineering feasibility study of the viability and economic impact of establishing regional septage treatment with satellite dewatering systems; the development of "universal" siting and operational criteria for facility components; and (if determined feasible), the design, final plans and specifications for the selected technology. Construction of key components, including a pilot dewatering facility and a composting facility at the Franklin Wastewater Treatment Facility operated by the WRBP are also envisioned. The WRBP is responsible for the wastewater treatment needs of 10 Lakes Region communities and currently treats septage from over 86 New Hampshire and Vermont communities, and as much as 59,000 gallons of septage in a single day. Further expansion will likely require additional funding.

With 75 percent of new housing starts relying on septic



The WRBP's Wastewater Treatment Facility in Franklin will benefit from the federal grant. Photo by Alan Kjellander.

systems, and over four million gallons of extra septage generated each year from these systems, we are facing a significant challenge of finding facilities to dispose of this waste properly. This initiative will be a first step in securing a long term, viable solution for central New Hampshire and beyond.

The state is sincerely grateful for the support of Sen. Judd Gregg and Rep. Charlie Bass, and for their efforts in obtaining funding for this initiative. The awarding of this grant demonstrates outstanding leadership and foresight by our congressional delegation. ■

Michael P. Nolin, *Commissioner*

Watershed Conference continues to grow in scope

On Saturday, November 13, 154 people attended the 2004 Watershed Conference held here at DES. Formerly known as the Rivers Conference, the conference



Conference attendees gather during a poster session.

has expanded in scope in recent years to include lakes and their watersheds.

Attendees had their choice of five different tracks to attend, which included: organizational development; effecting change; "tech time"; managing our watersheds; and ecology.

Positive comments were received regarding both the sessions, as well as the value of the poster sessions or breaks. Approximately 25 organizations set up displays in the DES lobby

and attendees were given ample time between sessions to catch-up, share ideas, learn new tricks, and otherwise commiserate.

The conference will no doubt

continue to grow in the coming years, and both UNH and Plymouth State University have offered to collaborate on the event next year. The people that attend the conference range from the first-year volunteer to engineers and consultants. Making sure that this diverse audience is well informed and well educated is crucial to the success of so many of the programs administered by the Water Management Bureau and DES as a whole. ■

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DES helps launch environmental health tracking program



New Hampshire
Environmental Health
Tracking Program
Bridging Health and the Environment

In keeping with DES's mission to **protect the environment and public health**, DES has joined a cooperative venture with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the state Department of Health and Human Services entitled the "New Hampshire Environmental Health Tracking Program." The goal of this New Hampshire-focused program is to create a network of local, state, and federal experts that will link health issues – such as wellness, asthma, allergies, poisonings – with environmental hazards – such as pollutants, pathogens, building conditions – in order to promote more efficient information sharing, better decision-making, and to better track progress towards achieving healthier communities in New Hampshire. Rick Rumba and Vince Perelli serve as the DES liaisons to the EHT Program.

Based on stakeholder input, the program has chosen to focus on three specific, linked health and environmental issues. These are: asthma and outdoor air quality; lung cancer and radon; and bladder cancer and arsenic in drinking water. The decision to evaluate these three specific areas was based upon past cooperative efforts to identify the environmental health conditions that had known environmental hazard and health relationships; the availability of higher quality data sources; and an impact on a significant number of residents in the state.

There are five main goals for this unique program.

- Evaluate existing capacity to build an environmental health tracking network and to respond to potential health problems.
- Develop partnerships to assure the successful planning and implementation of an environmental

health tracking system.

- Develop a plan for an integrated data sharing network that will provide timely, comprehensive environmental information to professionals responsible for public health protection and to the public.
- Participate in specific environmental health surveillance initiatives (pilot projects) to provide new data for the tracking system.
- Develop "measurable" indicators for the tracking of three priority environmental health areas in the state.

Over the past six months, the Environmental Health Tracking Program has pursued a plan to build capacity for a system that will track environmental health and illness. Activities included establishing state office and

local data collection sites, developing a cadre of well-trained staff, evaluating our ability to access information, and identifying major partnerships, stakeholders and data managers in New Hampshire. The theme of the first year was "Mapping the Trail" to reflect a focus on finding the resources in New Hampshire and defining the links between them. In the next year, program activities will turn to the theme of "Building the Trail" to reflect plans for linking health and environment information, databases and human resources.

For more information about the NH Environmental Health Tracking Program, please contact Rick Rumba at rrumba@des.state.nh.us, DHHS liaison Laura Holmes at lholfmes@dhhs.state.nh.us, or DHHS program manager Mathew Cahillane at mcahill@dhhs.state.nh.us. ■

Lab renovations continue; new entrance opens to receive samples

The second phase of the addition/renovation project is nearly complete. The lab is currently moving into its new work spaces and preparing to continue

services while the final phase occurs. The target date for final completion is mid-summer 2005. This third phase will result in major changes in how the lab receives samples.

During the lab sample area's reconstruction, DES will be sharing sample receiving facilities with the Public Health Lab. To pick up containers or



drop off samples, all samplers must use the entrance at the end of the new lab addition marked "Public Health Laboratories Specimen Receiving." *There is no access to the lab*

from the DES lobby. Please expect some delays, as only one staff person will be available to assist you and DES will be observing the Public Health Lab's security protocols.

DES apologizes for any inconveniences this causes. However, once construction is completed, we will be able to offer you improved services from our modern facility. ■

Update on Gulf of Maine Summit

From an article by Andi Rierden, Editor,
Gulf of Maine Times

The weeklong conference at the Fairmont Algonquin Hotel in St. Andrews, New Brunswick hosted by the Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC) and the Global Programme of Action Coalition for the Gulf of Maine (GPAC) drew more than 250 scientists, government and industry representatives, environmentalists and individual citizens from the region and beyond.

The centerpiece and guide for the Summit was an 81-page document, "Tides of Change Across The Gulf: An Environmental Report on the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy." The report was based on 12 forums and related events held throughout the Gulf of Maine and organized by GPAC between May 2002 and December 2003. While the forums, which attracted 1,000 people, focused on local watershed issues, another workshop began linking and coordinating data between the region's monitoring programs and devising ways to improve reporting methods. In addition, scientists from throughout the Gulf of Maine met earlier this year to establish ecosystem "indicators" for the region.

Other highlights of the Summit included the commitment by the governors and premiers in the region to sign a proclamation supporting the Gulf of Maine Council's work in habitat restoration and protection, information distribution and promoting sustainable maritime activities. In addition, Rolland A. Schmitt, director of the Office of Habitat Conservation for the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, presented the *Gulf of Maine Habitat Restoration Strategy: Restoring Coastal Habitat in the Gulf of Maine*, compiled by the Gulf of Maine Council's Restoration Subcommittee. Susan Snow-Cotter, acting director of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal

Zone Management, presented *Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative: A Framework for Ocean Management*. The report details an ambitious project to map the entire Gulf of Maine.

DES Commissioner Mike Nolin chairs the Gulf of Maine Council, whose Secretariat rotates among the five states and provinces annually. The Council will be addressing the Summit recommendations at its June 2005 meeting.

Notes from all the sessions and the full text of this article are online at www.gulfofmaine.org. ■



Arlene Allen (right), DES Wetlands, meets with Vice Chief Director Cheng Li Feng of the Environmental Protection Bureau of Heilongjiang Province, China, and his English translator. Allen, Bill Thomas, Mary Ann Tilton and Water Division Director Harry Stewart discussed a variety of water-related issues with the vice chief director, who was participating in a US Department of State visitation program.

DES increases training opportunities for Solid Waste Operators Certification Program

The DES Solid Waste Operator Certification Program was developed in 1990 to provide education and training on waste management technology and practices so that operators are better prepared to keep landfills, incinerators and transfer stations in compliance with applicable laws and administrative rules. Training topics cover a wide range of issues, from how to prepare for an inspection to how to operate a forklift. To date, about 3,000 operators have successfully completed the program.

Regulations for the Operator Certification Program require facilities to have at least 50 percent of their operators certified. The other 50 percent need to have "interim certification." To qualify for interim certification, they have to file an application and fee and attend the next introductory training, in accordance with RSA 149-M:9, VI.

A recent internal review of the program indicates that there is general compliance with the requirement for 50 percent certification, however, the interim certification requirement has not been adequately enforced. To address this shortcoming in the program, DES has increased the number of opportunities to receive initial training from two initial training sessions in 2004 to three sessions in 2005 with the potential for a fourth session, depending upon enrollment. Additionally, DES will reach out to all permitted solid waste facilities to remind them of the requirement for 100 percent certification. This will be accomplished through direct mailings and articles in the *Rubbish Resource*, DES's newsletter for solid waste operators.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (OSHA), the solid waste industry has the seventh highest rate of on-the-job fatalities. In addition to the environmental benefits from a well-trained workforce, DES is committed to increasing the number of trained solid waste operators to improve the protection of worker health and safety at New Hampshire's solid waste facilities. ■

State uncovers geologic oddity: Ancient thermogenic methane discovered in water well

State Geologist Dr. David Wunsch recently announced the discovery of dissolved methane gas in a deep water well in south-central New Hampshire. The NH Geological Survey has determined the source of the methane to have an ancient, geological origin (termed thermogenic), and was not derived from leaking gas lines or from swamps, landfills, or wetlands.

Methane is the principal component of natural gas, which is used for heating homes and appliances. The methane detected contained potentially explosive amounts of the dissolved gas. Methane in excess of 5-15 percent in air is considered explosive, and water with high concentrations

of dissolved methane can cause the gas to accumulate in poorly ventilated areas. State scientists discovered that the dissolved gases found in one well sample consisted of 49 percent methane.

"Methane is not a common constituent in ground water derived from the hard, crystalline rocks common to New Hampshire, like granite," said Dr. Wunsch, who led the investigation. "Methane is more common to sedimentary rocks, such as are found in Texas and Oklahoma. Sedimentary rocks are the source of almost all of the natural gas produced for fuel."

Although scientific literature has shown that other areas of the world with similar rock structure as New Hampshire, such as Canada and Sweden, also have had this methane oddity, researchers from the NH Geological Survey believe this discovery to be the first of its kind in the Granite State. The study of the source of the gas included the use of carbon-14 (radiocarbon), and other carbon isotopes, which showed its thermogenic origin. Modern day sources of methane from wetlands, bogs, and landfills were discounted because of other chemical analyses conducted, as well as the presence of trace amounts of helium and argon in the samples collected are consistent with an ancient, thermogenic origin for the methane.

Dr. Wunsch cautioned that comprehensive analyses have only been conducted on one well in southern Hillsborough County. However, anecdotal evidence from drillers and residents in the region suggest that the methane is present in other wells, and its occurrence is probably somewhat regional in nature, but could occur in other parts of the state as well. The geology of the region is probably a controlling factor for the methane's occurrence.

Methane is a colorless, odorless gas. Well water containing high concentrations of dissolved gases will often look milky when it is viewed in a clear glass after coming directly out of a faucet. However, residents should be aware that many gasses, most of which are not harmful, are common constituents of water and milky water does not necessarily mean the water contains methane. Water well owners who suspect methane in their well water can contact a commercial lab and find out more information on how to have their water tested. A listing of accredited laboratories is provided on the DES website at www.des.nh.gov/nhelap/accredited/labs.pdf. The New Hampshire Geological Survey plans to conduct further research into the cause and occurrence of methane in well water in the region.

For further information on this topic, please contact Dr. David Wunsch, NH Geological Survey, at (603) 271- 6482. ■

Dam breaching on Bellamy River restores habitat

In early November, the Bellamy River Dam located at the head-of-the-tide in Dover was removed through a cooperative public-private effort. Spanning a width of 60 feet, this 19th century timber-crib dam was a formidable blockade to spawning fish species, especially rainbow smelt and river herring. Originally the dam stood at ten feet high, but had collapsed to about three feet high.

Without access to fresh water spawning habitats, fish populations on the Bellamy River have suffered in the last few decades. Prior to the dam's removal, the Bellamy River system was the only major river system within the Great Bay Estuary that did not allow fish movement past the head-of-the-tide.

The \$35,000 project was funded by private businesses, governmental agencies, and non-profits, including the New Hampshire Coastal Program, Coastal Conservation Association, Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP), New Hampshire Fish and Game, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. CWRP facilitated the corporate support for the project. DES Dam Bureau staff coordinated the permitting process and the Dam Maintenance crew removed the dam. ■

Bellamy River Dam as it appeared in 1935. This 19th century timber-crib dam was a formidable blockade to spawning fish species until it was recently removed.



Environmental conference successful for MV recyclers

Through its NH Green Yards Program and NH Pollution Prevention Program, DES recently teamed up with the Auto and Truck Recyclers Association of New Hampshire to present a Trade Show and Environmental Conference for motor vehicle salvage facility operators in New Hampshire and the surrounding region. The conference featured break-out sessions covering many relevant topics, including MtBE and state cleanup funds, "surviving" a DES inspection, small quantity generator certification, removing air bag units and other explosive devices, computer equipment for business applications, and handling regulated substances.

Along with numerous DES program displays, 15 vendors displayed services and equipment for the participants. Over 100 people representing 30 salvage facilities attended the day-long event held at the Manchester School of Technology in November. As part of its Phase I best management practice education campaign, the NH Green Yards Program gave each participating facility a free fluid extractor unit and oil drip pan. These units were funded by a federal Watershed Assistance grant dedicated to improving environmental practices at auto salvage yards through use of best management practices.

DES initiated the NH Green Yards program in 2003 to provide guidance on improving environmental management practices at motor vehicle salvage facilities in the state.

The NH Pollution Prevention Program is assisting by providing on-site compliance and pollution prevention assistance visits, as well as providing free mercury recycling to motor vehicle salvage facility owners.

During 2005, Phase II is scheduled to begin following development of administrative rules for self-certification, and publication of a self-certification checklist and workbook. Following distribution of the checklist and workbook, *New Hampshire Green Yards* will provide additional workshops to help salvage facility personnel better understand how to complete the self-certification process. ■



More than 100 people representing 30 motor vehicle salvage facilities attended the environmental conference held in November.

DES staff honored at recognition ceremony

Mike Fitzgerald named DES Employee of the Year

At a recent ceremony, nine DES staff members received an enthusiastic affirmation from their peers for being named nominees for DES 2004 Employee of the Year. They were: Carroll Brown, Vanessa Burnes, Mike Fitzgerald, Susan Francesco, Janet Hillson, Steve Landry, Vince Perelli, Deb Soule and John Splendore. But it was Mike Fitzgerald, supervisor of the Air Resources Mobile Sources Unit, who was ultimately singled out to receive the award.

Mike came to DES seven years ago following more than 20 years in environmental and hazardous waste consulting, including stints with Janco, Clean Harbors, and Weston. Although he has only been involved with mobile sources for a relatively short time, he is recognized in New Hampshire and nationally as a leading authority on policy related to vehicles and fuels, with professional contacts at every level.

During this past year, Mike has represented DES in a number of forums, providing major technical presentations at the legislature, regional associations, rulemaking hearings, and the Air Resources Council.

When away from DES, he plays in the Concord Men's Basketball League (more than 25 years!), and is a member of the Parish Council at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Concord.

Mike "is congenial, a self-starter, a team player, and unfailingly tries to build consensus with all projects."

Congratulations, Mike, our 2004 Employee of the Year! And thank you to all of our dedicated DES staff! ■



Mike Fitzgerald, DES 2004 Employee of the Year (with trophy), poses with Commissioner Mike Nolin (right) and fellow honorees Vanessa Burnes, Carroll Brown, John Splendore, Vince Perelli, Janet Hillson, Deb Soule, Susan Francesco, and Steve Landry.

OBD check to be included in 2005 inspections

Beginning in 2005, New Hampshire's annual vehicle safety inspection will include a test of the on-board diagnostics (OBD) system on all 1996 and newer passenger cars and light duty trucks. The OBD system monitors the performance of some of the engine's major emissions components, including individual emission controls, such as the catalyst in the catalytic converter, engine misfire, the engine coolant temperature, and the oxygen sensors. While it is true that today's cars are cleaner, it is important to keep them running clean, because there are more cars on the road and people are driving more. An OBD emissions test will help accomplish this.



The OBD emissions testing program will also help New Hampshire achieve its long term air pollution reduction goals. It is being implemented as an alternative to more expensive, more time consuming tailpipe testing required under the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Such a tailpipe testing program would be required of all 1980 and newer vehicles, which would shift the economic burden of the program to owners of older vehicles who are typically less able to pay for potentially more expensive repairs. In addition, these older pre-1996 vehicles make up less than one-third of New Hampshire's fleet, a percentage that is declining each year. DES and EPA reached an agreement in 1997 to allow New Hampshire to use the simple, fast, and lower cost OBD test for 1996 and newer vehicles as part of the statewide vehicle safety inspection program to avoid the more onerous tailpipe testing requirement.

The new statewide inspection program will enable inspection stations to perform OBD testing and vehicle safety inspections and electronically collect and report the results to the Division of Motor Vehicles. This fully automated system will help ensure that all vehicle safety inspections are performed properly and fairly, reducing paperwork for the inspection stations, as well as reducing the potential for fraud by allowing immediate detection of "rigged" tests. The electronically generated written report from the OBD test will also aid the consumer in better identifying their service and repair needs.

The OBD system and testing program provides many consumer benefits. OBD systems can detect problems often before the driver is aware of them. The OBD system provides owners with an early warning of malfunctions by way of their "check engine" lights. By paying attention to the warning light and repairing the vehicle right away,

drivers may avoid more costly repairs in the future. In addition, a well-maintained vehicle saves fuel, reduces engine wear and tear, and reduces air pollution.

For information on the state's Vehicle OBD and Safety Testing Program, contact the N.H. Department of Safety, Division of Motor Vehicles, at 271-0351 or visit www.nh.gov/safety/dmv/emissions. For information on the air quality benefits of OBD, contact the Air Resources Division at 271-6390 or (800) 498-6868. ■

DES staff recognized for service milestones

10 Years

John Cotton, WMD
Sharon Crane, ARD
Steven Dolloff, WD
Gail Fraser, CO
Allyson Gourley, WD
Alice Greenleaf, ARD
Gary Lynn, WMD
Robin Mongeon, WMD
Susan M. Pelletier, WMD
Valerie Place, ARD
Gary Springs, WD
Michael Stanley, WD
Barbara Thoits, WD
Michael Wimsatt, WMD

15 Years

Lorraine Aldo, CO
John Bass III, WD
Stanislaw Bomba, WD
Kathleen Brockett, ARD
Carroll Brown, Jr., WMD
Mary Ellen Clairmont, WD
Jennifer Day, CO
Marion Greenlaw, CO
Talcott Hubbard, WMD
Natalie Landry, WD
George Lombardo, WMD
Real Mongeau, WD
Vincent Perelli, CO
Sharon Perkins, WMD
Newton Strickland, ARD
Eric Thomas, WD
Joseph Tristaino, ARD
Robert White, ARD

20 Years

Richard Andrews, ARD
Stephen Beyer, CO
Pamela Brett, CO
Frederick Chormann, Jr., CO
Walter Henderson, WD
Scott Hilton, WMD
Gino Infascelli, WD
Kenneth Judkins, Sr., WD
Nelson Ordway, WMD
Rachel Rainey, CO
Wesley Ripple, WD
Richard Thayer, WD
Rebecca Towle, CO

25 Years

John Chwasciak, WMD
Jody Connor, WD
Thomas Croteau, WD
John Duclos, WMD
William E. Evans, WD
William R. Evans, WMD
Garry Haworth, CO
Sheila Heath, CO
Pamela Matott, CO
Ralph Wickson, WMD
Sharon Yergeau, WMD

30 Years

David Chappell, WD
Dexter Dragon, WD
Richard Flanders, WD
George Neill, WD
Carl Woodbury, WMD

Survey shows backyard trash burning ban effective

In January 2003, a new law became effective in New Hampshire banning the open burning of residential household trash in backyard burn barrels or outdoor fire pits. To raise public awareness of the law and its health benefits, DES and the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) conducted extensive outreach for a year before and after the ban went into effect. Forest fire wardens and town officials across the state distributed and posted information. Residents were warned about the harmful emissions of dioxins and other highly toxic chemicals that are released into the air when the inks, dyes, chlorine, plastics, toxic metals, and synthetic materials contained in trash are burned.

How effective are the outreach efforts in reducing the incidence of backyard burning? To answer that question, in September 2004 the DES Air Resources Division and DRED's Division of Forests and Lands mailed a survey to 215 fire wardens throughout the state. Survey questions were designed to determine if the practice of backyard burning had diminished since 2002, and the extent of general awareness of the residential trash burning ban and alternative methods for trash disposal. Results of this survey were compared to results from a similar survey conducted in 2001.

Survey response rate has been over 60 percent. Based on the number of permitted and unpermitted burn barrels, preliminary survey results indicate that there has been a 91 percent decrease in known or reported household burn barrels. Overall, more than 60 percent of the fire wardens responding reported a decrease in trash burning since the law was implemented.

Although outreach efforts have been very successful in publicizing the ban on residential trash burning, some residents in rural areas of the state may still be unaware of the ban or the potential health impacts of backyard trash burning. Additionally, people may be burning trash in their indoor wood stoves, which produces the same harmful emissions as outside trash burning. Thus, on-going outreach efforts are still needed. To continue those efforts, DES has reprinted the "Residential Trash Burning" brochure that municipalities can distribute to their residents and fire wardens can hand out to people requesting authorized burn permits.

Residential trash burning, whether indoors in wood-stoves or outdoors in burn barrels, releases toxic air pollutants that put you, your children, and your neighbors at risk. Before you burn, call your town office to find out more about recycling opportunities, proper trash disposal, and obtaining a fire permit. ■

Schiller

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sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions. These pollutants are a concern to DES because they contribute to the formation of fine particles in the atmosphere, acid rain, and ground-level ozone or smog.

Air pollution control equipment on the wood-fired boiler will include: a selective non-catalytic reduction system, or SNCR, to reduce NO_x emissions; a powdered limestone injection system to reduce SO₂ emissions and acid gases; and a fabric filter to minimize emissions of particulate matter, including metals.

The project's clean-burning wood-fired boiler meets strict efficiency and environmental standards for renewable energy programs in Massachusetts and Connecticut. It has been certified by both states as a new, renewable energy source, enabling PSNH to produce and sell Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to suppliers seeking to satisfy renewable energy requirements in those states.

The cost of the project, known as the Northern Wood Power Project, is estimated at \$70-\$75 million. PSNH anticipates that the NWPP boiler will be online and generating renewable energy by the summer of 2006.

For information on this project, contact Gary Milbury, Air Resources Division, (603) 271-2630 or gmlilbury@des.state.nh.us. ■



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